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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1967

RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Port Medical Officer of Health

for YEAR 1967

WATERLOO HOUSE,
WATERLOO ROAD,
BLYTH.
January, 1968.

To the Chairman and Members of the River Blyth Port Health Authority.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again it is my privilege to place before you the Annual Report on the work of the Port Health Administration for the Port of Blyth, for the year 1967.

As in preceding years this report is presented in accordance with the instructions issued by the Minister of Health—Form Port 20, and Circular 33/52. Detailed information will be found in the Sections I to XVI.

The total number of vessels which arrived during the year was 1,787 including Fishing Vessels. This is slightly below last year's figure. Foreign Vessels trading Foreign and Coastwise numbered 340 including Fishing Vessels, which is a decrease on last year. The number of arrivals direct from Foreign Ports was substantially the same.

The amount of Coal and Coke shipped from the Port during the year was 2,819,368 tons; this also includes Bunker Coal.

The large decrease in coal exports is partially attributed to the increased consumption of the Blyth Power Station and also to the effects of a fire at Lynemouth Colliery which reduced considerably the amount of coal available for export.

Imports discharged at the Port were: Timber 16,608 loads, Iron 4,443 tons, Roofing Tiles 991 tons, Fertiliser 2,703 tons, Steel Wire 1,647 and Sundries 3,955 tons.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1966

The above Regulations became operative from the 1st April, 1966, and deal with the Infectious Diseases, now to be known as Quarantinable Diseases, sanitary control of ships and persons, Deratting Certificates, etc. Certificates issued will be found in the appropriate tables.

INSPECTION OF VESSELS

The work dealing with nuisances and defects (structural and otherwise) will be found in the appropriate tables included in the report

I again record with pleasure the kind assistance received from time to time from the Blyth Harbour Commission, River Pilots, H.M. Customs Officers, Immigration Officer, also the Ministry of Transport Surveyors for their help and co-operation with the staff of the Port Health Authority.

R. J. P. R. CAMPBELL, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

MEMBERS OF AUTHORITY AT 31st DECEMBER, 1967

Chairman: ALDERMAN E. BREADIN

Vice-Chairman: COUNCILLOR M. A. MCGUCKIN

ALDERMAN A. RUTHERFORD, J.P.
ALDERMAN MRS. L. M. SUMMERS
COUNCILLOR J. CAINE
COUNCILLOR G. GOLPITTS
COUNCILLOR W. FITZSIMMONS
COUNCILLOR J. HAIG
COUNCILLOR J. HUDSPITH
COUNCILLOR W. R. INCE.
COUNCILLOR MRS. M. PURVES
COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. THOMPSON

SECTION I—STAFF

Table A

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointment held
MISS L. OWEN ...	Clerk to the Authority	11th Sept., 1960	A.C.I.S.	Town Clerk's Staff, Borough of Blyth
DR. R. J. P. R. CAMPBELL ...	Medical Officer of Health	1st October, 1949	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice
DR. R. CRAIG ...	Deputy Medical Officer of Health	1st April, 1957	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice
MR. NORMAN F. GODFREY	Public Health Inspector	1st February, 1957	Public Health Inspectors' Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Food Cert. R.S.I.	None
MR. ROBERT H. CRAMP	Rodent Officer	11th January, 1952		None
MISS M. WALKER ...	Office Clerk	1st March, 1965		None

Dr. R. J. P. R. Campbell's address:—Waterloo House, Waterloo Road, Blyth, Northumberland. Telephone No. BLYTH 3226.

SECTION II

Amount of Shipping entering the District during the year

Table B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having or having had during the voyage Infectious Diseases on board
			By the M.O.H.	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports ...	84	50,681	22	66	—
Coastwise Ports ...	1,540	1,182,275	45	1,345	—
TOTALS ...	1,624	1,232,956	67	1,411	—

FISHING VESSELS—	No.	Tonnage
Foreign	157	9,597
Coastwise	6	149

Crews

Foreign	Coastwise	Fishing	Total
985	20,350	1,537	22,872

SECTION III

Character of Shipping and Trade during the year 1967

Table C

		British	Alien	Commonwealth
Passenger Traffic ...	Number of Passengers INWARDS ...	2	34	1
	Number of Passengers OUTWARDS ...	13	44	Nil
	Passengers on Temporary Shore Leave	Nil	Nil	Nil

There is no regular passenger traffic at this Port (see table for Aliens).

Cargo Traffic ...	Principal Imports	Mining Timber	8,112	tons
		Other Timber	8,496	,,
		Iron	4,443	,,
		Roofing Tiles	991	,,
		Fertiliser	2,703	,,
		Sundry	5,602	,,
	Principal Exports	Coal and Coke (Cargo) ...	2,808,381	,,
		Coal (Bunkers)	10,987	,,
		Fuel Oil (Bunkers) ...	3,971	,,
		Sundry	1,911	,,
		Barley	14,931	,,

Fish landed was valued at £33,147.

Principal Ports from which Ships arrive:—

FOREIGN PORTS—

BELGIUM ...	Antwerp, Ghent, Ostend.
CYPRUS ...	Famagusta.
DENMARK ...	Aarhus, Copenhagen, Esbjerg, Fredrikshaven, Marstal, Svendborg.
FAEROES ...	Klakksvik, Thorshavn.
FINLAND ...	Helsinki, Kemi.
FRANCE ...	Bordeaux, Dunkirk.
GERMANY ...	Brake, Bremen, Dusseldorf, Emden, Flensburg, Gluckstadt, Hamburg, Haren-Ems, Lubeck, Rendsburg, Stade, Stralsund.
GREECE ...	Patrai.
HOLLAND ...	Amsterdam, Delfzijl, Dordrecht Groningen, Harlingen, Hoogkirk, Joure, Kampen, Leeuwarden, Meppel, Rotterdam, Terneuzen, Ymuiden, Zwartsluis, Zaandam.
ICELAND ...	Reykjavik.
ITALY ...	Genoa, Venice.
NORWAY ...	Bergen, Haugesund, Kristiansand, Masneo, Mo-i-Rana, Oslo, Sandnes, Stavanger, Svelgen.
POLAND ...	Danzig, Gdynia, Stettin, Swinouisce, Wladyslawawa.
PORTUGAL ...	Setubal.
SPAIN ...	Gijon, Pasajes, Valencia, Vigo.
SWEDEN ...	Goteborg, Oskarshamn, Nykoping, Stockholm.
U.S.S.R. ...	Leningrad.

SECTION IV

Inland Barge Traffic

There is no barge traffic at the Port.

SECTION V

Water Supply

Samples have been taken regularly from points on the West Staithes, North and South Sides, South Harbour and B.H.C. Waterboat. Of the 72 samples taken from the Port, 2 after bacteriological examination were found to be unsatisfactory. Of the 3 samples taken from vessels in the Port, none were found to be unsatisfactory.

In all cases where unsatisfactory reports have been received, remedial measures have been taken and check samples taken later have shown the supply to be satisfactory. In instances where unsatisfactory reports have come from vessels, the fresh water tanks have been cleaned out and in some instances the fresh water systems thoroughly overhauled, with satisfactory results in all cases.

SECTION VI

Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1966

No change.

SECTION VII

Smallpox

1.—The Northern Regional Hospitals Board have made arrangements for the admission of Smallpox cases to the Langley Park Isolation Hospital, Co. Durham (Telephone No.: Chester-le-Street 3207). The Doctor in Charge of this hospital will be Dr. Gavin Millar, of Green Ridge, Farnley Mount, Durham. His Telephone No. is 2395.

2.—The Northumberland County Council are responsible for the ambulance service. Dr. A. Donaldson, the Medical Officer for the Blyth and Bedlington Local Authorities, is responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

3.—Name of Smallpox Consultant Available:—

Dr. Wilson Minns,
South Rigg, Humshaugh,
Hexham.
Home Telephone No.:
Humshaugh 317.

4.—Facilities for Laboratory Diagnosis of Smallpox. Laboratory facilities are provided at the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4.

SECTION VIII

Venereal Disease

No change.

SECTION IX

Cases of notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on ships.

Table D

Category	Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from Foreign Ports	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from Foreign Ports, but have been disposed of before arrival	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION X

Observation on the occurrence of Malaria in Ships

No cases of Malaria have been reported during the year.

SECTION XI

Measures taken against Ships infected with or suspected of Plague

Inquiries as to the prevalence of rats are made on all ships in Port (whether in possession of Deratting Certificates or Deratting Exemption Certificates or not) and a systematic inspection is carried out on all ships arriving directly or otherwise from foreign ports.

A systematic search for evidence of infestation is carried out on all vessels.

SECTION XII

Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

1.—On arrival at the Port vessels are examined and if there is any evidence of rats notice is at once served on the Master. The Port Health Authority have their own official Rodent Operator. Particular attention is given to vessels arriving directly or indirectly from infected areas.

2.—Rats when caught are examined and facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne, for detailed bacteriological examination of any specimens when necessary.

3.—For some years now there has been no instance of a major infestation of rats on any vessel to the extent of requiring wholesale fumigation. If any such instance occurred, the shipping agents would arrange for the fumigation to be carried out by one of the approved firms mentioned below. The whole process would be supervised by Officers of the Authority.

In the case of fumigation by Hydrogen Cyanide or Methyl Bromide, strict precautions have to be observed to safeguard all the persons involved and the whole process carried out in accordance with the Regulations.

Contractors approved for the carrying out of the above services in this Port are:—

MESSRS. CONTRA PEST SERVICES LTD.,
Rekendyke Lane,
South Shields.

Tel. No.: South Shields 63388.

MESSRS. RENTOKIL LABORATORIES LTD.,
556 Regent Street,
South Shields.

Tel. No.: South Shields 4921.

4.—In the Construction of modern vessels considerable progress has been made in the provision of rat-proof compartments. Bulkheads and partitions are usually steel, and with the minimum of timber, it is difficult for rodents to find harbourage. Modern Naval Architecture is coping with the problem satisfactorily.

Table E

Rodents destroyed during the year in Ships from Foreign Ports

Category	Number
Black Rats	—
Brown Rats	—
Species not known	—
Sent for examination	—
Infected with Plague	—

The total number of brown rats recovered from the Quayside after poison baits have been put down was 294.

All rats recovered are examined and where any abnormalities are noted are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne, for further detailed examination.

Table F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1967 for Ships from Foreign Ports

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
After fumigation with		After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
HCN	Other Fumigant (state method)					
—	—	—	—	—	15	15

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1967

Net Tonnage	No. of Ships	No. of Deratting Certificates issued				No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
		After Fumigation with			After Trapping, Poisoning, etc.		
		HCN	Sulphur	HCN and Sulphur			
Ships up to 300 tons ...	22	—	—	—	—	22	22
Ships from 300 tons to 1,000 tons	22	—	—	—	—	22	22
Ships from 1,001 tons to 3,000 tons	21	—	—	—	—	21	21
Ships from 3,001 tons to 10,000 tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ships over 10,000 tons...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	65	—	—	—	—	65	65

SECTION XIII

Inspection of Ships for Nuisances

Table G

Inspection and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections		Notices Served		Result of Serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Routine Inspections ...	S/S 297	Nil	71	Defects remedied
Do. ...	M/V 1,327	Do.	150	Do.
Do. ...	F/V 163	Do.	—	Do.
TOTAL	1,787	Do.	221	—

SECTION XIV

Public Health (Shell-fish Regulations) 1934 and 1948

No change.

SECTION XV

Medical Inspection of Aliens

This is not an approved Port for the landing or inspection of Aliens.
The number of Aliens who arrived at the Port was 34 (see Table C, Section III).

SECTION XVI

Miscellaneous

Mortuary—No change.

Food Inspection—

There was a slight decrease in the amount of Barley exported this year. One vessel found to be infected with rice weevil had to be disinfected before loading. This was carried out by approved contractors under the supervision of the Authority's Officers.

NATIONALITIES OF SHIPS

British	1,441
Danish	11
Dutch	92
German	47
Faeroes	5
Greek	1
Liberian	1
Finnish	1
Norwegian	11
Cyprian	1
Bahamas	2
Swedish	11
TOTAL	1,624

FISHING VESSELS

Dutch	45
Polish	108
British	6
Danish	4
TOTAL	163
GRAND TOTAL FOR THE YEAR	1,787

VESSELS BOARDED

The following tables give a list of vessels boarded during the year by the Medical Officer of Health or Public Health Inspector on account of disease on board during the voyage or whilst in Port.

All cases set out below received attention and treatment.

Date	Name of Vessel and Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness
3.1.67	S.S. Hudson Firth (British)	London	Bosun	Scalded foot
14.1.67	M.V. Lady Sarita (British)	Wells-on-Sea	Seaman	Gastric Influenza
18.1.67	M.V. Queensland (British)	London	Seaman	Gastric Influenza
27.1.67	M.V. Queensland (British)	London	Seaman	Gastric Influenza
31.1.67	M.V. Maarit (Finnish)	Rotterdam	2nd Mate	Accident to hand
27.2.67	S.S. Lady Charrington (British)	London	3rd Eng.	Accident to arm
27.2.67	S.S. Arundel (British)	London	Seaman	Accident to eye
16.3.67	M.V. Maja (German	Dordrecht	Engineer	Dental Abscess
24.3.67	M.V. Seaford (British)	Dover	Master	Accident
2.4.67	M.V. Karl (German)	Goole	Seaman	Accident to leg
30.5.67	S.S. Cliff Quay (British)	London	Master	Hepatitis
2.6.67	S.S. Cormist (British)	London	Steward	Injury to back
12.6.67	M.V. Shetland Trader (British)	Bristol	Mate	Accident to hand
24.6.67	M.V. St. Abbs Head (British)	London	Seaman	Gastric Poisoning
28.6.67	M.V. Corbank (British)	London	Bosun	Accident to hand
1.7.67	S.S. Cormist (British)	Tyne	Ch. Off.	Dental Abscess
6.7.67	M.V. Arabritt (Swedish)	Rotterdam	Seaman	Dental treatment
13.7.67	M.V. Kinnaird Head (British)	Leningrad	2nd Off.	Accident to hand
30.7.67	M.V. Hoendiep (Dutch)	Colchester	Seaman	Gastritis
9.8.67	M.V. Arabritt (Swedish)	Rotterdam	Seaman	Eye injury
17.9.67	M.V. Corsea (British)	Ipswich	Seaman	Influenza
11.10.67	M.V. Ballyrory (British)	Belfast	Ch. Off.	Dental Abscess
25.10.67	M.V. Ballyrush (British)	Belfast	Cook	Influenza
2.11.67	M.V. Windsor Queen (British)	London	Seaman	Accident to eye
4.11.67	M.V. Craigmore (British)	Belfast	Ch. Eng.	Gastric Influenza
6.11.67	M.V. Emerald (British)	Liverpool	Ch. Off.	Injury to back
21.11.67	M.V. Henfield (British)	Shoreham	Seaman	Accident to leg
13.12.67	M.V. Otto Porr (German)	Limerick	Master	Severe injuries from fall
30.12.67	M.V. Rosemary Everard (British)	Leith	Master	Influenza

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949
Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951

Eight Rodent Control Certificates were issued during the year.

The charges for the issue of Deratting and Deratting Exemption Certificates were increased from 1st September, 1961, so that some coasting vessels have requested to be issued with Rodent Control Certificates. This latter type of Certificate is not valid outside British waters.

VESSELS FOUND HAVING STRUCTURAL OR SANITARY DEFECTS

	Structural Defects		Sanitary Defects		Total
	Foreign	Coastwise	Foreign	Coastwise	
British Steam	—	8	—	63	71
British Motor	4	14	5	102	125
British Sail	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign Steam	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign Motor	1	3	10	11	25
Foreign Sail	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	25	15	176	221

It was not found necessary to carry out any disinfestations of crews' quarters on vessels during the year.

DEFECTS

	Work in hand	Work completed	Total
Fresh water tanks repaired or renewed	—	2	2
Fresh water tanks cleaned and cement washed	—	14	14
Fresh water systems repaired or renewed	—	7	7
Sanitary tanks repaired or renewed	—	11	11
Sanitary pipes repaired or renewed	—	2	2
Hot water systems repaired or renewed	—	6	6
W.C.s discharging on to quay	—	5	5
W.C.s repaired or renewed	—	8	8
Wash basins repaired or renewed	—	1	1
Wash up sinks repaired or renewed	—	2	2
Showers repaired or renewed	—	6	6
Central heating systems repaired	—	10	10
Crews' accommodation cleaned and painted out	—	11	11
Officers' accommodation cleaned and painted out	—	8	8
Leaking accommodation repaired	—	11	11
Galleys cleaned and painted out	—	10	10
Galley stoves repaired or renewed	—	6	6
Galley equipment repaired or renewed	—	7	7
Galley benches renewed	—	5	5
Refrigerators cleaned out or repaired	—	12	12
Refrigerator resited	—	1	1
Food stores cleaned out	—	8	8
Scupper pipes cleared	—	10	10
Scupper pipes repaired or renewed	—	7	7
Port lights repaired or renewed	—	33	33
Refuse deposited on to quay	—	3	3
Smoke emissions	—	3	3
Ventilating systems repaired or renewed	—	10	10
Condensation and Dampness in crews' accommodation remedied	—	2	2
Totals	—	221	221

VESSELS ARRIVING FROM INFECTED OR SUSPECTED PORTS

The following tables gives the number of vessels boarded in Blyth by the Officers of the Port Health Authority, on account of them coming directly or indirectly from Foreign Ports, infected or suspected of being infected with Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus Fever or Relapsing Fever.

1967	From Infected Ports to Blyth		From Suspected Ports to Blyth		TOTAL
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
January	—	—	—	—	—
February	—	—	—	—	—
March	—	—	—	—	—
April	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	—	—
August	—	—	—	—	—
September	—	—	—	—	—
October	—	—	—	—	—
November	—	—	—	—	—
December	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD INSPECTION

The Principal Acts of Parliament and the Regulations affecting the work of the Authority are:—

Local Government Act, 1933.
Public Health Act, 1936.
Public Health Officers (Port Health Districts) Regulations, 1959.
Merchant Shipping (Crew Accommodation) Regulations, 1953.
Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1964.
Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926.
Preservatives in Food Regulations, 1962.
Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 and 1948.
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924—1952.
Food and Drugs (Whalemeat) Regulations, 1960—1961.
Food and Drugs Act, 1955.
Antioxidant in Food Regulations, 1958.
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960—1961.
Food Hygiene (Docks, Carriers, etc.) Regulations, 1960.
Colouring Matter in Food Regulations, 1957.
Arsenic in Food Regulations, 1959—1960.
Fluorine in Food Regulations, 1959.
Labelling of Food Order, 1953.
Lead in Food Regulations, 1961.
Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.
Mineral Hydrocarbons in Food Regulations, 1964.
Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1966.
Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953.
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 and 1954.
Poison Rules, 1960.
Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Ships) Regulations, 1951.
Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951.
Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) (Amendment No. 2) Order, 1956.
The Poisons (Fluoroacetamide and Fluoroacetanilide) Rules, 1964.
Clean Air Act, 1956.
Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) (Vessels) Regulations, 1958.

G. Robinson and Co., (Printers) Bedlington.